

Message

From: Young, Patrick [young.patrick@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/6/2018 6:32:01 PM
To: Bojes, Heidi (DSHS) [Heidi.Bojes@dshs.texas.gov]
CC: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; Renee Funk (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH) [rjf8@cdc.gov]; Jack Hanley [jah8@cdc.gov]
Subject: Re: Update on Cherokee County public water system

Thank you Heidi for update!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 6, 2018, at 12:56 PM, Bojes, Heidi (DSHS) <Heidi.Bojes@dshs.texas.gov> wrote:

Hi Patrick,

I wanted to provide an update about the chemical contamination.

Below is a summary from our press office and attached are messages from TCEQ. TCEQ has issued a press release today.

Our regional office and medical director, Dr. Huff has been helping address health-related concerns.

TCEQ has been sampling water, but there haven't been any results to date. I have looped in the TPCN.

Thanks,
Heidi

Heidi Bojes, PhD
Director, Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section
Texas Department of State Health Services
Office: 512-776-6351
Cell: 512-289-0871

Subject: Update on Cherokee County public water system

Part of the public water supply in Cherokee County has been contaminated with a chemical believed to be a wood preservative used by a local saw mill. TCEQ issued a do not use order for 500 connections (about 1500 customers). TCEQ is planning to send out a press release to local media this afternoon. Heidi has been working with TCEQ on this and had offered our support in the form of responding to public health questions. Heidi spoke to Dr. Huff in Region 4/5 today and Dr. Huff agreed to take calls from citizens concerned about health issues. TCEQ's press release will indicate that people can call either the DSHS Region 4/5 office with Dr. Huff's name as the contact or the Texas Poison Center Network if they have health questions.

Test results have not been received so we are advising callers who have used the potentially contaminated water to see their doctor. I will forward the press release when I receive it from TCEQ.

Lara

.....
Lara M. Anton
Press Officer
Texas Department of State Health Services
(o) 512-776-7753 • (m) 512-865-1338
.....

From: Bojes,Heidi (DSHS)
Sent: Thursday, October 4, 2018 10:34 AM
To: Huff,Sharon (DSHS) <Sharon.Huff@dshs.texas.gov>
Cc: Hall,Manda (DSHS) <Manda.Hall@dshs.texas.gov>; Das,Tara (DSHS) <Tara.Das@dshs.texas.gov>
Subject: FW: PCCC

Dr. Huff,

The TCEQ recently contacted us about chemical contamination of a public water supply in South Cherokee County. The chemical is believed to be a wood preservative.

There are 500 potential affected connections with 1500 customers. They have shut off 11 connections/meters.

TCEQ issued a do not use order and water should not be used for any purposes.

TCEQ is collecting samples and the results are forthcoming. We told TCEQ that residents can contact either TPCN or us with health concerns.

Residents may contact TCEQ Region 5, Tyler at 903-535-5100, for more information about the contamination or if they want their water sampled.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Heidi

Heidi Bojes, PhD
Director, Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section
Texas Department of State Health Services

Office: 512-776-6351
Cell: 512-289-0871

From: Bojes, Heidi (DSHS)

Sent: Thursday, October 4, 2018 10:00 AM

To: 'Baker, David' <David.Baker@BSWHealth.org>; Sharilyn Stanley <sharilyn.stanley@csec.texas.gov>; Melody Gardner <MELODY.GARDNER@phhs.org>; Cole, Jean <jcole@UTMB.EDU>; Jaramillo, Jeanie <Jeanie.Jaramillo@ttuhsc.edu>; Stoller, Veronica R <Stoller@uthscsa.edu>; SBaeza@umcelpaso.org; Hayes, Jeff <Jeff.Hayes@austintexas.gov>

Cc: Melinda Crockom <melinda.crockom@csec.texas.gov>; Cristina Thomas <CRISTINA.THOMAS@phhs.org>; lizbeth.petty@phhs.org; Ferguson, Tommie <Tommie.Ferguson@BSWHealth.org>; Farrar, Ronica <Ronica.Farrar@ttuhsc.edu>; ESaenz@umcelpaso.org; Alvarez, Eugenio A. <eaalvare@UTMB.EDU>; Barrera-Garcia, Virginia <BARRERAV@uthscsa.edu>; Garcia, Illeana <garcia8@uthscsa.edu>; Hall, Emily (DSHS) <Emily.Hall@dshs.texas.gov>; Forrester, Mathias (DSHS) <Mathias.Forrester@dshs.texas.gov>; Hoogheem, Jeff (DSHS) <Jeff.Hoogheem@dshs.texas.gov>

Subject: RE: PCCC

All:

A do not use order was issued yesterday for Craft-Turney WSC, located in South Cherokee County, South of Jacksonville.

There are 500 potential affected connections with 1500 customers. They have shut off 11 connections/meters.

A commercial fungicide is believed to have contaminated the water supply.

There are two active ingredients:

Methylene bithiocyanate (15%) antimicrobial; water soluble;
Tetrachloroisophthalonitrile (15%) fungicide; non-water soluble.
Surfactant (70%) inert

The contaminated water is likely to appear milky and should not be used for any purposes, including drinking, cooking, washing clothes. It's ok to use water for flushing because the chemicals are not volatile.

TCEQ will sample water at the request of residents. Residents should contact TCEQ Region 5, Tyler at 903-535-5100.

TCEQ is collecting samples and the results are forthcoming. Also, we will provide additional information about the short-term health effects.

We told TCEQ that residents can contact either TPCN or us with health concerns.

Thanks,
Heidi

Heidi Bojes, PhD
Director, Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section
Texas Department of State Health Services
Office: 512-776-6351
Cell: 512-289-0871

Please note My email address has changed to reflect @dshs.texas.gov domain. Please be sure to update your contact information with the new address.

<mime-attachment>

<Fwd Pictures from Arrington.msg>